

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 ACDA-07 EB-07 NRC-05

OES-06 ERDA-05 /112 W

-----072039Z 107241 /42

P R 071930Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9502

INFO MAMEMBASSY BONN 242

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, PARM, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR DEBATE: US SENATORS AND PRAVDA

WEIGHT IN

1. SUMMARY. STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO THE BRAZIL-GERMAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT BY SENATORS CRANSTON AND GOLDWATER, AND BY PRAVDA, DREW EXTENSIVE ATTENTION IN THE JANUARY 7 BRAZILIAN PRESS. SENATOR CRANSTON REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CANCEL THE BRAZIL-GERMAN AGREEMENT'S REPROCESSING PLANT. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, SENATOR
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GOLDWATER'S REPORTED RATIONALE THAT BRAZILIAN AND MEXICAN POPULATION GROWTH ARE PART OF A WORLD SCENE THAT JUSTIFIES US DEFENSE EFFORTS WILL AFFRONT MANY BRAZILIANS. SOME MAY CONCLUDE THE SENATOR FEARS AN INTERACTION OF OVERPOPULATION AND A BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JAN. 7 EDITION OF BRASILIA'S CORREIO BRASILIENSE, A

CONSERVATIVE, SOMETIMES SENSATIONALIST DAILY WITH WIDE CIRCULATION IN THE CAPITAL AND IN MILITARY CIRCLES
HERE, LED WITH THE HEADLINE, "RUSSIAN-AMERICAN ALLIANCE AGAINST THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT." RIO'S PRESTIGIOUS JORNAL DO BRASIL GAVE SIMILAR TREATMENT.

3. PRAVDA, ACCORDING TO JORNAL DO BRASIL AND OTHER PAPERS, REITERATED THE THEME THAT THE BRAZIL-GERMAN AGREEMENT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR BRAZIL TO BUILD NUCLEAR ARMS. JORNAL DO BRASIL'S MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT, DEV MURARKA, INTERPRETED THE ATTACK AS A TOUGHENING OF THE USSR'S POSITION, AND AS EVIDENCE OF ITS LACK OF FAITH IN SAFEGUARDS. MURARKA JUDGED THAT MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO PLEASE THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION HAD MOTIVATED ITS CHANGE OF POSITION. HE PRESSED THE LINE THAT THE RICH AND POWERFUL PRESUME THE POOR AND WEAK ARE IRRESPONSIBLE. MURARKA NOTED THAT THE ATTACK FOLLOWED THE USSR'S ANNOUNCED DECISIONS TO FURNISH REACTORS TO CUBA AND POLAND.

4. CRANTSTON'S REMARKS IN THE SENATE WERE DESCRIBED IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS AS A DEFENSE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S POLICY TO DETER THE ARMS RACE. SENATOR CRANSTON REPORTEDLY SAW ENCOURAGING SIGNED IN RECENT WEEKS THAT THE WORLD IS TAKING THE PROLIFERATION PROBLEM MORE SERIOUSLY. SOON AFTER THE PRESIDENT-ELECT'S "FIRM STATEMENTS", THE RUSSIANS, FRENCH, GERMANS, AND CANADIANS ANNOUNCED A NEW POLICY WHICH OFFERS "THE FIRST REAL HOPE OF EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION". CRANSTON REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IS LOOKING FOR A GRACEFUL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAY TO CANCEL WEST GERMANY'S EXPORT TO BRAZIL OF A RE-PROCESSING PLANT.

5. SENATOR GOLDWATER REPORTEDLY WARNED THAT RAPID BRAZILIAN AND MEXICAN POPULATION GROWTH WERE PART OF THE PHENOMENON OF GLOBAL TRANSFORMATIONS THAT DEMANDS AN ADEQUATE US MILITARY CAPABILITY. IN THE SAME SPEECH, HE ALSO CITED NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AS ONE OF THE DANGERS THAT CONTRIBUTES TO WORLD TENSIONS.

6. COMMENT. SENATOR GOLDWATER'S COMMENTS AS REPORTED HERE WILL AFFRONT MANY INTELLIGENT BRAZILIANS, AND CAN GENERATE NEAR-PARANOIC REACTIONS BY SUSPICIOUS NATIONALISTS OF THE RIGHT AND LEFT. SOME BRAZILIANS MIGHT EVEN RUSH TO CONCLUDE THAT THE SENATOR FEARS THE WORST KIND OF OUTCOME FROM THE INTERACTION OF OVERPOPULATION AND A BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. AS CORREIO'S HEADLINE INDICATES, MANY BRAZILIANS PROBABLY SUSPECT THAT THE US IS NOW (EVEN IF NOT EARLIER) CLOSELY COORDINATING NONPROLIFERATION POLICY

WITH THE OTHER SUPERPOWER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR REACTORS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL00184
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770007-0733
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770173/aaaacnf.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f39d30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3647638
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRASILIAN NUCLEAR DEBATE: US SENATORS AND PAVDA WEIGHT IN
TAGS: TECH, PARM, BR, GE, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f39d30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009